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READERS' FORUM

Party of Peace Imperative In These Troubled Times

Peace Party Held Need

Editor the Gazette

Fifteen years of Democrats and Republicans in Washington have not altered the course toward Holocaust. Pledges, parades, pilgrimages, Turn Toward Peace groups, picketing, Pugwashes, conventions, while all most laudable and important, are getting us no nearer peace. Administration foreign policy in fact is not only impeding peace but is moving us in the opposite direction—note the festering abscesses all over the world wherever the CIA-Pentagon-State Department complex has intervened: Cuba, South America, Berlin, the Congo, resumption of nuclear testing, and the monstrous thing now proceeding in South East Asia, involving thousands of American boys and hundreds of millions wrung from American taxpayers, all without the consent of the American people or of their representatives in Washington. The imperative need now is a new party—a Party of Peace.

Do you think all this would be going on, with the great representative bodies in the national capital just sitting there, saying and doing nothing, if it were votes instead of words and parades that they had to think about? If nothing else is understood in Washington, votes are definitely understood and respected—and feared.

The Party of Peace idea is not of course that of a third party attempting to promote a national ticket at once, but to stop bullets with ballots. The program is to unify all groups and individuals in the nation who now regard peace as paramount, for the purpose of using the most powerful instrument they possess, the vote, to influence Washington—a start to be made at the local level through peace candidates, especially in primaries, running on independent and write-in tickets that would assure the peace first voters in the community a chance to act effectively for peace.

The primary object in the initial program would not be to win elections but to rouse Washington with millions of votes for peace across the nation, elections to be won of course where possible. In Charleston there is interest in Unit For Peace that is being developed.

In the Nation magazine for May 36th editor Carey McWilliams, in an article, Time For A New Deal, said about the must reading for every citizen, "It reveals that this program is now being put to the test, using the methods outlined above for the identical purpose of the peaceful voice of our people."

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